

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the present amendment.

Claim 7 has been amended to add a limitation and now recites a steering wheel comprising a hub, a steering wheel rim, at least one spoke connecting said hub and said steering wheel rim, at least one of said steering wheel rim and said spoke having a skeleton and a sheathing surrounding said skeleton, said sheathing comprising two shell parts fitted together, each shell part not being closed in a circumferential direction, seen in a radial sectional view of said steering wheel rim, and said shell parts adjoining each other in said circumferential direction to surround said skeleton in said circumferential direction, said skeleton having a recess, and at least one decorative element having a fastening element which projects into said recess.

Japanese Utility Model 63-176771 to Endo, et al. ("Endo") does not disclose a sheathing comprising two shell parts fitted together, each shell part being closed in a circumferential direction, seen in a radial sectional view of a steering wheel rim, and said shell parts adjoining each other in said circumferential direction as recited in claim 7. Endo discloses an inner sheathing 5a and outer sheathing 5b. In contrast, claim 7 recites that, the two shell parts adjoin each other in the circumferential direction to form a sheathing that surrounds a skeleton. The inner sheathing 5a and outer sheathing 5b of Endo do not adjoin each other in the

circumferential direction. Accordingly Endo does not disclose the sheathing recited in claim 7.

Now claim 10 has been added by this amendment. It is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is patentable over the prior art of record, taken individually or in combination. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests allowance of claim 10.

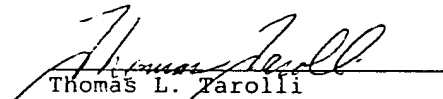
Claim 10 recites a hub, a steering wheel rim, at least one spoke connecting said hub and said steering wheel rim, at least one of said steering wheel rim and said spoke having a skeleton and a sheathing surrounding said skeleton, said skeleton having a recess constructed as a through-hole extending through said skeleton, and at least one decorative element having a fastening element which projects into said recess, said fastening element engaging with a rearward edge of said recess.

Japanese Utility Model 63-176771 to Endo, et al. ("Endo") does not disclose a skeleton having a recesses constructed as a through-hole extending through said skeleton as recited in claim 10. Providing a through-hole through a skeleton and a decorative element having a fastening element which projects into a recess of said skeleton, wherein said fastening elements engage a rearward edge of said recess as recited in claim 10, provides the advantage of easy manufacture of the recesses in the skeleton. Using a rearward edge of a through-hole to fasten a decorative element would allow provision of a simple cylindrical hole in a sturdy skeleton body. Accordingly, Endo does not disclose the structure of claim 10.

In fact, no prior art discloses the structure of claim 10 or renders claim 10 obvious.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 10-0090.

Respectfully submitted,


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